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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(W. F. YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)  
FOR THE YEAR 1947.



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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(W. F. YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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*The Chairman and Members of the  
Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District Council.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

Ministry of Health Circular No. 170/47 requires that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1947 should be prepared on the lines of those for 1946, and suggests that in addition to subjects regarding public health and preventive medicine, matters of current interest should be included.

In the present Report I have accordingly continued to give particular attention to developments in connection with water-supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, and post-war housing; the subject of diphtheria immunisation is also dealt with in some detail.

Considerable progress was made in connection with post-war housing, and by the end of the year the first fifty-six new Council houses had been occupied, ninety-two were in various stages of construction, and plans for further large numbers had been submitted to the Ministry of Health. The position with regard to schemes for the extension of water supplies, sewerage, and sewage disposal, however, showed little change.

With regard to infectious disease, an unprecedented number of cases of measles were notified, and there was also an increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever. This latter disease, however, continued to be of mild type.

Both the birth-rate and death-rate showed small increases, and the infantile mortality rate of twenty-nine per 1,000 was one of the lowest recorded.

I may, perhaps, be allowed to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and support during the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

W. F. YOUNG,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

“THE GABLES,”  
TRENTHAM,  
STOKE-ON-TRENT.

July, 1947.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 40,015 acres.

Rateable Value: £58,439.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £224.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population: 16,560.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as 31st December, 1948: 4,638.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by Parishes.

TABLE 1.

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley ..	..	332	Madeley ..	..	722
Audley ..	..	2347	Maer ..	..	171
Balsterley ..	..	62	Mucklestone ..	..	134
Betley ..	..	193	Tyrley ..	..	233
Chorlton ..	..	128	Whitmore ..	..	167
Keele ..	..	149			

In addition there were a number of occupied caravans, semi-permanent dwellings, etc., as follows:—

TABLE 2.

<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley ..	..	3 caravans.
Audley ..	..	1 railway coach.
Betley ..	..	3 caravans.
Chorlton ..	..	48 caravans and semi-permanent dwellings.
Maer ..	..	1 caravan.
Mucklestone ..	..	1 railway coach.
Whitmore ..	..	1 caravan.

The caravans and semi-permanent dwellings in Chorlton Parish are concentrated in a licensed camping ground.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A considerable increase in the numbers of both men and women employed was recorded during the year.

The position with regard to the acute shortage of agricultural labour was unchanged.

TABLE 3.  
VITAL STATISTICS.

				<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme</i> <i>R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
	<i>Rates per 1,000 of the estimated resident Civilian Population</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Population</i>
<b>LIVE BIRTHS:</b>	M	F			
Total ..	340	165	175	20·5	20·05
Legitimate	328	162	166	19·8	— *
Illegitimate	12	3	9	0·7	— *
<b>STILLBIRTHS:</b>					
Total ..	11	5	6	0·66	0·50
Legitimate	10	4	6	0·60	— *
Illegitimate	1	1	0	0·06	— *
<b>DEATHS:</b>					
Total ..	200	103	97	12·1	12·0

*Rates per 1,000 Related Live Births.*  
*Newcastle-u-Lyme*      *England*  
*R.D.*                      *and Wales*

### DEATHS UNDER ONE

YEAR OF AGE:	M	F		
Total ..	10	4	6	29
Legitimate	10	4	6	29
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0·0

\* Rates not available.

*Rates per 1,000 Live Births*  
*Newcastle-u-Lyme*      *England*  
*R.D.*                      *and Wales*

### DEATHS FROM:

Diarrhoea and Enteritis	M	F		
under two years of age				
Total .. ..	1	0	1	2·9

Table 4 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last five years in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and in England and Wales, and the average rates during this period.

TABLE 4.

YEAR		<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
1943	..	..	53
1944	..	..	43
1945	..	..	78
1946	..	..	50
1947	..	..	29
Averages	..	..	51
			45

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to record in the general provision detailed in previous Reports, and there was no change in personnel.

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#### HEALTH EDUCATION.

During the first week in December a course of film-shows arranged in conjunction with the County Council Health Committee under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education was given at the three Infant Welfare Centres in the District. The subjects included Diphtheria Prophylaxis, the Care of the Teeth, and Breast-feeding. A general show was also given to women at Ashley. Attendances were satisfactory, and the audiences appreciative.

The success of the course was to a large extent due to the generous help given by local workers in connection with general local arrangements, publicity, etc.

Arrangements were also made whereby two film-shows on Diphtheria Prophylaxis were shown at the Palace Cinema, Audley.

Under arrangements made in conjunction with the County Council particulars with regard to facilities for immunisation in this District appeared in local newspapers during the course of the year.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Particulars of action were referred to in my Report for 1946, and the statement below gives some details of the position at the end of 1947.

#### ASHLEY PARISH.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—The subject of provision for present and anticipated development in the Loggerheads area, where Ashley, Mucklestone, and Tyrley Parishes meet, was considered further during the year.

Early in 1947, the Council's Consulting Engineer submitted a report to the effect that as the disposal plant at the Cheshire Joint Sanitorium at Loggerheads was to be re-constructed and enlarged, an arrangement might be come to whereby domestic sewage from houses in this part of the District could be dealt with at these works.

In October, 1947, the Consulting Engineer submitted a further report suggesting that, in view of recent considerable extensions at the Sanatorium, it would be desirable to site new disposal works outside the Sanatorium grounds, and that they could be made capable of dealing in addition with present and future housing developments in the neighbourhood. The works would be managed by the Council, and the question of primary cost and of running expenses would be one for allocation.

The report considered that the design of the works should envisage a future dry-weather flow of 90,000 gallons a day, but that the first instalment should only provide for a dry weather-flow of about 61,000 gallons.

The cost of the first instalment (works and contingencies only) was estimated to be £27,500.

The matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

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There was no change in connection with the original scheme for the sewerage of the remainder of the Parish.

## AUDLEY PARISH.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—Particulars of progress were given in my report for 1946, and there is no further change to record.

## MADELEY PARISH.

WATER.—The question of the provision of a supply for the Council's projected housing estates at Pool Farm and The Moss, Madeley, engaged much attention during the year.

Two comprehensive schemes were considered, and in the end it was decided to proceed with the provision of a reservoir of 200,000 gallons capacity by the side of Keele Road and of the necessary mains at an approximate cost of £13,200. Application for grant under the Rural Water and Sewerage Acts was made to the Ministry of Health.

No further progress was found possible with regard to supplies for the Bar Hill, Manor Road, Sandyfields, and Bowsey Wood areas.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—There is no change to record.

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## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mr. L. Scawn, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“ Public cleansing in the District has proceeded more or less normally during the year. Collection of household refuse was improved to some extent by the acquisition towards the end of the year of a new refuse freighter for service in the parish of Audley.

“ Five of the other parishes in the District were dealt with by Contractors and no serious difficulties were encountered during the year. It was not found possible to extend the service to the remaining parishes in the area, where private collections only are carried out.”

TABLE 5.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF WATER

SUPPLIES TAKEN IN THE AREA DURING 1947.

		Bacteriological	Chemical		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<b>PUBLIC MAINS:</b>					
Audley ..	..	3	—	3	—
Bearstone ..	..	3	—	3	—
Staffs. Potteries Water Co.		1	—	1	—
Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D. ..	..	1	—	1	—
		8	—	8	—
<b>PRIVATE MAINS:</b>					
Hales Estate ..	..	1	—	1	—
Whitmore Estate ..	..	1	—	1	—
		2	—	2	—
<b>OTHER PRIVATE SUPPLIES:</b>					
(By Parishes)—					
Keele ..	..	2	—	2	—
Madeley ..	..	2	1	1	2
Maer ..	..	1	—	—	1
Whitmore ..	..	2	1	3	—
		7	2	6	3
<b>TOTAL NUMBERS OF ANALYSES:</b>					
Public Mains ..	..	8	—	8	—
Private Mains ..	..	2	—	2	—
Other Private Supplies ..	..	7	2	6	3
		17	2	16	3

It may be seen from Table 5 that all the unsatisfactory samples were those of waters taken from private supplies other than mains.

The tenants of properties deriving supplies from unsatisfactory sources were advised as to the precautions to be taken with water used for drinking purposes, etc.

The following notes give further particulars of water supplies through public mains.

#### AUDLEY WATER WORKS.

Of the three samples taken in Audley Parish from the District's own supply, one was taken at the works before chloramination. This sample showed a high standard of purity.

Analysis has shown that this water has a total hardness of twenty-four to twenty-six parts per 100,000. The question of the installation of softening equipment was the subject of a report made in March, 1947, by the Council's Consulting Engineer, but on account of the high cost (roughly £12,000, works and contingencies only) consideration was deferred for one year.

With regard to main supplies obtained from outside undertakings, the following information has kindly been submitted by their Officers.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES WATER BOARD.

"The water is derived from deep wells and boreholes sunk in the New Red Sandstone rock.

During 1947, bacteriological examinations made numbered forty-one, of which seven were of the untreated, and thirty-four were of the chloraminated water.

None of these samples shewed either *Bacteria Coli* or *Clostridium Welchii* reaction, and all were certified by the Analyst as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

Eleven samples were submitted for chemical analysis and from the chemical aspect, these too were certified as pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

The water is described as of medium hardness, the saline constituents in solution are not excessive, and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is not plumbosolvent and the organic quality is of the highest standard.

Softening of the water is not undertaken."

## BEARSTONE SUPPLY. (Nantwich Rural District).

The opinion of the Cheshire County Council Analyst was as follows:—

“A potable water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and wholesome bacteriological quality. As the result of the Base Exchange Treatment, the sample contains sodium bi-carbonate to the extent of 8·25 grains per gallon.”

Estimation of hardness yielded the following results:—

	Total	Temporary	Permanent
Before Softening ..	24·0	18·0	6·0
After Softening ..	11·0	11·0	Nil.

The Engineer to the Nantwich Rural District Council reported that the water was not chlorinated, but was softened by the “Base-Exchange” method, although owing to the increased demand for water, it had been necessary to curtail the softening process for short periods.

It appears that this Undertaking has now been transferred to the Midland South East Cheshire Water Board.

## MARKET DRAYTON WATER COMPANY.

The Secretary reported that three samples submitted for bacteriological analysis in February, 1947, and two samples submitted in September, 1947, were all “Class 1, and highly satisfactory.” All these samples were taken after chlorination. No samples were submitted for chemical analysis. Softening is not undertaken.

No shortage of water from main supplies was experienced during the year. Insufficient quantity was reported from a few properties supplied privately.

There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action in any of the supplies.

Particulars by Parishes of estimated percentages of domestic premises supplied (a) from publicly and privately owned mains; and (b) from publicly-owned mains only were given in my Annual Report for 1944. The total estimated percentages in these categories were 91 and 86 respectively. Since 1944, there has been no appreciable change in these figures. With regard to the percentages of population supplied, no accurate figures are available. They are likely, however, to approximate to those given for premises.

The number of houses supplied with main water through standpipes is about twenty.

Extensions of public mains were made to a few properties, including one farm. No notices were served during the year.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

The position with regard to repairs became rather easier during the year, but there remain many houses in urgent need of improvement. Much difficulty was met with in connection with supplies of building materials. The labour aspect improved considerably.

Table 6 gives some particulars of action taken during the year and of its results.

TABLE 6.

#### DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Number of informal notices served .. .. ..	48
Statutory notices served under Section 9 (H.A. 1936)	2
Statutory notices served under Section 11 (H.A. 1936) ..	—
Number of houses included in clearance areas under Section 25 (H.A. 1936) .. .. ..	—
Overcrowding abatement notices .. .. ..	—

#### RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN.

Number of houses where repairs were in hand ..	8
Number of houses where repairs had been completed ..	14
Number of houses reconditioned under Housing (Rural Workers') Acts .. .. ..	—
Number of houses demolished (Section 11 and Section 25)	1
Number of overcrowding cases abated .. ..	?

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### HOUSING SURVEY.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 236. Table 7 gives details of the numbers inspected under the categories suggested in the Third Report of the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee published in May, 1944.

TABLE 7.

1. Satisfactory in all respects .. .. ..	56
2. Minor Defects .. .. ..	122
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement ..	51
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act .. .. ..	—
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense .. .. ..	7
Total .. .. ..	236

The County Joint Housing Advisory Committee issued a detailed statement of suggested standards of fitness in June, 1945, and this has formed the broad basis of the Survey in this Area.

The total numbers of houses inspected since the commencement of the present survey are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8.

1. Satisfactory in all respects .. .. ..	638
2. Minor Defects .. .. ..	375
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement ..	571
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act .. .. ..	2
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense .. .. ..	138
	1724

It may be seen from the above tables that a considerable proportion of the houses inspected had been found to be either in need of repair or unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense. It should be explained in this connection that attention has been largely concentrated on groups of houses known to be defective, and the figures must, therefore, not be taken as representative of average conditions. There is little doubt that in addition to the Council's own houses a large proportion will be found to be satisfactory in all respects.

## BUILDING LICENCES.

572 licences were issued during the year.

Inspection was made in practically every case to ascertain whether the repairs were essential.

## OVERCROWDING.

No new cases were recorded. Abatement was found possible in a few cases, but as changes do not always come to notice no accurate records are available.

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## TOWN PLANNING AND POST-WAR HOUSING.

The following statement gives some particulars (by Parishes) of progress made during the year.

**ASHLEY PARISH.**—Two Swedish Timber houses were practically completed. Tenders had been received for the construction of roads and sewers in an estate to comprise twenty-four houses of the "Airey" type.

### AUDLEY PARISH.

*Wereton Scheme, No. 1.*—Houses Nos. 1—30 were occupied. Houses Nos. 31—40 were well advanced.

*Wereton Scheme, No. 2.*—Work had been commenced on twenty-six "Airey" houses.

*Wereton Scheme, No. 3.*—Plans had been made for twenty-four "Airey" and forty-six permanent houses.

A proposed lay-out for future development at Wereton had been approved by the Ministry of Health.

*Wood Lane.*—Drawings, etc., for 154 houses had been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

*Halmerend.*—The number and types of houses had not been agreed upon. Much difficulty had been met with in the selection of a suitable site.

**BALTERLEY AND BETLEY PARISHES.**—No change.

**CHORLTON PARISH.**—Work on a block of four permanent houses was well advanced, and another pair had been started.

**KEELE PARISH.**—No change.

### MADELEY PARISH.

*Madeley Village*.—Sewers had been laid and work on roads had been started at the Moss site. Twelve bungalows for aged persons were under construction at Furnace Lane, and work had been started on twenty-six aluminium bungalows at Park-Side.

*Onneley*.—Two Swedish Timber houses were almost complete, and work was well advanced on two permanent houses.

*Baldwin's Gate*.—Eight permanent houses had been planned.

MAER PARISH.—It had not been found possible to select a suitable site.

### MUCCLESTONE PARISH.

*Knighton*.—Two Swedish Timber houses had been completed, and two more were nearly completed.

TYRLEY PARISH.—Plans for ten permanent houses had been made, but agreement had not been reached with regard to a site.

### WHITMORE PARISH.

*Acton*.—Work on two brick houses was well advanced.

Table 9 gives details by Parishes of the numbers of new Council houses occupied during the year.

TABLE 9.

Parish					No. of New Houses occupied.
Ashley ..	..	..	..	..	6
Audley	..	..	..	..	37
Chorlton	..	..	..	..	1
Madeley	..	..	..	..	3
Mucclestone	..	..	..	..	4
Tyrley ..	..	..	..	..	3
Whitmore	..	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	..	56

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Mr. L. Scawn, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

#### “MEAT

No slaughtering was carried out in the District apart from a few animals killed under licence from the Local Food Office. The meat for sale in the Area is distributed from the abattoirs at Stoke-on-Trent.

Regular routine inspection of butchers' shops was made, and it was found that with the exception of a few premises where verbal advice was necessary in connection with preparation-rooms, conditions were quite satisfactory.

#### FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY:

Many special inspections were made during the year, and as a result informal notices were served as follows:—

			Notices served	Notices plied with.
Bakeries	..	..	5	4
General Groceries and Fish and Chip Shops	..	..	5	5

Defects discovered were mainly in connection with uncleanly and insufficient sanitary and washing accommodation, and uncleanliness generally.

#### FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR:—

Butter	..	..	43lb.
Bacon	..	..	45lb.
Flour	..	..	700lb.
Fish	..	..	5 stones
Tea	..	..	12lb.
Chocolate	..	..	10lb.
Tinned Foods	..	..	81 tins."

#### ICE CREAM.

The Ministry of Health's Regulations of 1946 were referred to in last year's Report. Further Regulations dealing with the question of the heat-treatment of ice-cream came into force on 1st May, 1947.

By the end of the year the number of premises in the District licenced for the preparation and sale of ice-cream was nine, of which four dealt with manufactured ice-cream in bulk, and five in pre-packed.

Notices were served in five cases, with compliance in two cases, by the end of the year. It was found necessary to refuse licences in two instances.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—

“ 122 farms were visited during the year, chiefly in connection with alterations and additions to premises. Improvements were carried out on a number of farms, including reconstruction of existing buildings, installation of water supplies and drainage work. Twelve applications were received and approved for the construction of new shippsons and dairies. A fairly high standard of cleanliness was maintained and very few complaints were received in connection with unsatisfactory samples of milk. Two cases were reported to the Public Health Committee, but improvements were effected eventually, and it was not found necessary to take further action.”

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the number of cases notified during the last five years together with the average numbers during this period.

TABLE 10.  
(Civilians only).

	..						Average Numbers for 5 Years	
		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947		
Scarlet Fever	..	..	13	20	10	17	34	18·8
Diphtheria	..	..	7	3	—	2	2	2·8
Whooping Cough	..	..	159	19	73	55	48	70·8
Measles	..	..	192	144	126	20	377	171·8
Ac. Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	0·2
Ac. Polio-encephalitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	0·2
Typhoid Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	0·2
Acute Pneumonia*	..	..	18	13	9	7	10	11·4
Dysentery	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	2	—	—	1	—	0·6
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	..	..	8	14	10	9	1	8·4
Smallpox	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	1	5	2	—	—	1·6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	2	1	1	—	—	0·8

\* Notifiable cases only, viz., primary or influenzal.

TABLE 11.

Analysis by Age-Groups and Sex of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

(Civilians only).

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Polio-Encephalitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .. ..	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	4	—	—
1 .. ..	1	1	4	8	—	—	35	20	—	—
3 .. ..	5	—	4	13	—	—	50	46	—	—
5 .. ..	3	6	4	9	—	—	92	86	—	—
10 .. ..	8	8	1	—	—	—	16	11	2	—
15 .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—
25 and over ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ..	17	17	14	34	—	—	1	201	176	2

Age Periods	Acute Pneum'a		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F
0 .. .. ..	—	—	—	—
5 .. .. ..	1	1	—	—
15 .. .. ..	5	—	—	—
45 .. .. ..	1	—	—	—
65 and over ..	1	1	—	1
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	8	2	—	1

TABLE 12.

COMPARISON OF THE RATES OF INCIDENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1947 WITH THOSE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District</i>
(Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)		
NOTIFICATIONS:		
Typhoid Fever ..	0·01	0·00
Paratyphoid Fevers ..	0·01	0·00
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	0·05	0·00
Scarlet Fever ..	1·37	2·05
Whooping Cough ..	2·22	2·90
Diphtheria ..	0·13	0·12
Erysipelas ..	0·19	0·06
Smallpox ..	0·00	0·00
Measles ..	9·41	22·77
Pneumonia ..	0·79	0·60
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia*	7·16	0·00

\* Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still).

TABLE 13.

COMPARISON OF DEATH-RATES FROM CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1947.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District</i>
(Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)		
DEATHS:		
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ..	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever ..	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ..	0·02	0·00
Diphtheria ..	0·01	0·00
Influenza ..	0·09	0·18
Smallpox ..	0·00	0·00
Measles ..	0·01	0·06

The following notes give some particulars of the incidence, etc., of infectious disease.

(a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SCARLET FEVER.

The distribution of the thirty-four cases notified was as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>		
Ashley	..	..	5
Audley	..	..	11
Balterley	..	..	2
Betley	..	..	7
Chorlton	..	..	1
Hales	..	..	1
Madeley	..	..	2
Maer	..	..	1
Whitmore	..	..	4

All the cases seem to have been of mild type, and in a number, the rash was fleeting and there was no constitutional disturbance. Ashley School was closed on this account for two weeks in October, and no further cases were notified. As a number of children in the Ashley area attended schools in Market Drayton, the parents of children who were contacts of cases were requested not to send their children by 'bus to Market Drayton schools for a period.

There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases occurred at Betley in boys who had had both primary and re-inforcement injections of prophylactic. These were severe cases, and one of them suffered from cardiac complications. It is possible that their recovery may have been due to the fact that they had been afforded prophylactic treatment. It also seems fair to assume that the prevention of the spread of the disease was in some part at least owing to the high state of immunisation in the Parish.

Immunisation is referred to on page 25.

WHOOPING COUGH.

It may be seen from Table 10 that there was a fall in the incidence of this disease. There were no deaths.

## MEASLES.

The incidence was the highest for a considerable time. The majority of the cases were notified in the first half of the year, and the areas most heavily affected were Hales, Wood Lane, and Audley.

Whitmore School was closed on this account for two weeks in June. There was one death.

## PNEUMONIA.

There were four deaths.

## POLIO-MYELITIS. (Infantile Paralysis).

The District was fortunate in that no cases occurred among children during the nation-wide epidemic in 1947.

Arrangements were made in August whereby the services of a consultant neurologist were available to general practitioners. Use was made of this provision in three cases, all adults, of whom one, a woman of thirty-four years, was thought to be suffering from the cerebral form of the disease. Recovery was complete.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Accurate records of this type of infectious disease are, of course, not available. Information supplied by the Head-Teachers of primary schools nevertheless give indications as to the locality of certain infections during periods when schools are open. The co-operation of Head Teachers continued to be of great value in connection with precautions against the spread of infectious disease in schools.

## INFLUENZA.

A considerable number of cases were reported by Teachers in the Madeley area in January and February, and Madeley Endowed and Madeley Heath schools were closed for a period of one week.

There were three deaths.

## SCABIES.

Two or three mild cases among school-children came to notice. Treatment was carried out successfully under private arrangement.

## DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

During the year 260 children of less than school-age, and thirteen of ages 5—14 inclusive, completed courses of primary immunisation. In addition, 280 children of school-age had "reinforcement" injections.

By the end of the year the estimated percentages of children who had completed courses of primary immunisation were as follows:—

TABLE 14.

Ages 0—4 inclusive ..	..	64%
Ages 5—14 inclusive ..	..	92%
Total for 0—14 years ..	..	80%

Percentages of refusals, evasions, etc., were as follows:—

Ages 0—4 inclusive ..	..	1%
Ages 5—14 inclusive ..	..	4·5%
Total 0—14 .. ..	..	3%

The twenty schools in the District show the following percentages of children immunised as at December, 31st:—

Schools showing percentages of 100 .. ..	4
„ „ „ between 90—100 ..	9
„ „ „ „ 80—90 ..	4
„ „ „ „ 70—80 ..	3

The three schools showing percentages between 70—80 are among the smallest in the area.

Table 15 gives some particulars with regard to immunisation in the years 1942-47.

TABLE 15.

(A) NUMBERS OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED COURSES OF IMMUNISATION IN THE YEARS 1942-47.

	0—4 years of age		5—14 years of age	Total
	..	..	..	
1942	..	..	275	532
1943	..	..	379	778
1944	..	..	239	389
1945	..	..	274	303
1946	..	..	197	220
1947	..	..	260	273
		1624	871	2495

(B) ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED  
 COURSES OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION BY THE ENDS OF THE YEARS  
 1942-47.

		0—4 <i>years of age</i>	5—14 <i>years of age</i>
1942	..	70%	59%
1943	..	90%	80%
1944	..	84%	90%
1945	..	81%	93%
1946	..	77%	92%
1947	..	64%	92%

Publicity in connection with Immunisation is referred to on page 8.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 16.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory
0 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .. ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 .. ..	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
15 .. ..	2	—	5	—	1	—	1	—
25 .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35 .. ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 .. ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	5	1	5	3	5	—	3	1

TABLE 17.

## INCIDENCE AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

### NEW CASES                                           DEATHS

Year		Non- Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
		Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory
1938 ..	15	7	8	4	
1939 ..	15	3	7	—	
1940 ..	18	7	6	1	
1941 ..	9	6	5	—	
1942 ..	4	6	3	2	
1943 ..	13	8	6	2	
1944 ..	10	4	3	—	
1945 ..	12	5	5	1	
1946 ..	10	5	4	1	
1947 ..	10	4	8	1	
Totals ..	116	55	55	12	
Averages ..	11.6	5.5	5.5	1.2	

TABLE 18.  
INCIDENCE RATES AND DEATH RATES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS  
IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

<i>Year</i>		<i>Incidence Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Numbers of New Cases per 1,000 Population)</i>	<i>Death Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Deaths per 1,000 Population)</i>
1938	..	0·93	0·50
1939	..	0·92	0·42
1940	..	1·07	0·36
1941	..	0·51	0·30
1942	..	0·24	0·18
1943	..	0·80	0·37
1944	..	0·62	0·19
1945	..	0·75	0·31
1946	..	0·62	0·25
1947	..	0·60	0·48
Averages		0·71	0·34

It may be seen from Table 18 that, while the incidence rate of pulmonary cases in 1947 was approximately equal to that for 1946, the death rate was nearly doubled. Much as the increase in this latter rate is to be regretted, it should be realised that the numbers concerned are small, and that an increase of four deaths in any one year does not necessarily mean a marked deterioration in the general position. The subjects of incidence and death-rate were referred to in some detail on page 31 of my Annual Report for 1945.

Table 18 shows that the average incidence-rate of the pulmonary form of the disease during the period 1943-47 was 0·28 lower than that for the period 1938-42; and that the corresponding death rate during the period 1943-47 was 0·16 lower than that for the period 1938-42.

Recent research has shown that we may be approaching the threshold of improvements in connection with both prevention and treatment of the disease, but among other adverse factors the continued shortage of sanatorium accommodation constitutes a most serious handicap.

During the year much attention continued to be given to the subject of the improvement of housing conditions for cases of

tuberculosis, and in a few cases it was found possible to arrange for the provision of more suitable accommodation. It is much to be hoped that as the building of new houses in the District gathers speed, it may be possible to bring about further improvement in this most important matter.

TABLE 19.  
CAUSES OF DEATH  
IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT IN 1947.

		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>
All Causes	.. ..	103	97	12·1
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid				
Fevers	.. ..	0	0	0·00
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. ..	0	0	0·00
3. Scarlet Fever	.. ..	0	0	0·00
4. Whooping Cough	.. ..	0	0	0·00
5. Diphtheria	.. ..	0	0	0·00
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. ..	5	3	0·48
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	.. ..	0	1	0·06
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. ..	0	1	0·06
9. Influenza	.. ..	1	2	0·18
10. Measles	.. ..	0	1	0·06
11. Acute poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	.. ..	0	0	0·00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	.. ..	1	0	0·06
13. Cancer of mouth and oesoph- agus (M) and uterus (F)	.. ..	0	1	0·06
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duo- denum	.. ..	0	3	0·18
15. Cancer of Breast	.. ..	—	2	0·12
16. Cancer of all other sites	.. ..	8	6	0·85
17. Diabetes	.. ..	0	5	0·30
18. Intercranial vascular lesions	.. ..	10	9	1·15
19. Heart Disease	.. ..	30	25	3·32
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	.. ..	2	2	0·24
21. Bronchitis	.. ..	3	3	0·36
22. Pneumonia	.. ..	3	1	0·24

TABLE 19 (continued)

		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>
23.	Other respiratory diseases ..	4	0	0·24
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	0	0	0·00
25.	Diarrhoea under two years ..	0	1	0·06
26.	Appendicitis ..	0	0	0·00
27.	Other digestive diseases ..	2	4	0·36
28.	Nephritis ..	15	4	1·15
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ..	—	0	0·00*
30.	Other maternal causes ..	—	1	2·85*
31.	Premature Birth ..	0	1	0·06
32.	Congenital malnutrition, birth injuries, infantile diseases ..	2	1	0·18
33.	Suicide ..	1	0	0·06
34.	Road traffic accidents ..	2	0	0·12
35.	Other violent causes ..	2	0	0·12
36.	All other causes ..	13	21	2·05

\* Per 1,000 total births (live and still).

The figures given in Table 19 are those supplied by the Registrar-General, who states that the classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special inquiries.

This possible source of discrepancy between the figures given in Table 19 and those in the body of the Report must be borne in mind with regard to the causes of death.

TABLE 20.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF  
THE YEAR 1947 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-  
LYME IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act,  
1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	7	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	16	14	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total .. .	27	21	8	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..	3	3	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	3	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. ..	10	10	—	4	—

## PART 8 OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	SECTION 110		SECTION 111	
	No. of out-work- ers in Aug list req'd in sending by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc. ..	3	—	—	—



